

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Crim. Action No.: 2:20-CR-18
(Judge Kleeh)

RICHARD SCOTT CONNALLY,

Defendant.

**ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [ECF NO. 43],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING**

On May 2, 2022, the Defendant, Richard Scott Connally ("Connally"), appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Michael J. Aloia and moved for permission to enter a plea of **GUILTY** to Count One of the Indictment, charging him with Intent to Distribute More than Fifty (5) Grams of Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii). Connally stated that he understood that the magistrate judge is not a United States District Judge, and Connally consented to pleading before the magistrate judge.

This Court referred Connally's plea of guilty to the magistrate judge for the purpose of administering the allocution, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, making a finding as to whether the plea was knowingly and voluntarily entered, and recommending to this Court whether the plea should be accepted.

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Based upon Connally's statements during the plea hearing, and the Government's proffer establishing that an independent factual basis for the plea existed, the magistrate judge found that Connally was competent to enter a plea, that the plea was freely and voluntarily given, that Connally understood the charges against him and the consequences of his plea, and that a factual basis existed for the tendered plea. The magistrate judge issued a *Report and Recommendation Concerning Plea of Guilty in Felony Case* ("R&R") [ECF No. 43] finding a factual basis for the plea and recommending that this Court accept Connally's plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment.

The magistrate judge **remanded** Connally to the custody of the United States Marshals Service.

The magistrate judge also directed the parties to file any written objections to the R&R within fourteen (14) days after service of the R&R. He further advised that failure to file objections would result in a waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of this Court based on the R&R. Neither Connally nor the Government filed objections to the R&R.

Accordingly, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge's R&R [ECF No. 43], provisionally **ACCEPTS** Connally's guilty plea, and

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ADJUDGES him **GUILTY** of the crime charged in Count One of the Indictment.

The Court also **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge's R&R [ECF No. 33], recommending the defendant's motion to suppress be denied as moot. On a prior day, Defendant moved to withdraw the motion [ECF No. 21] and the Government did not object to the request. Therefore, Defendant's motion [ECF No. 21] is denied as moot.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(3) and U.S.S.G. § 6B1.1(c), the Court **DEFERS** acceptance of the proposed plea agreement until it has received and reviewed the presentence investigation report prepared in this matter.

Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 6A1 et seq., the Court **ORDERS** the following:

1. The Probation Officer shall undertake a presentence investigation of Connally, and prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court;

2. The Government and Connally shall each provide their narrative descriptions of the offense to the Probation Officer by **May 27, 2022**;

3. The presentence investigation report shall be disclosed to Connally, his counsel, and the Government on or before **July 11**,

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2022; however, the Probation Officer shall not disclose any sentencing recommendations made pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(e)(3);

4. Counsel may file written objections to the presentence investigation report on or before **July 25, 2022**;

5. Responses to objections to the presentence investigation report shall be filed on or before **August 1, 2022**;

6. The Office of Probation shall submit the presentence investigation report with addendum to the Court on or before **August 15, 2022**; and

7. Counsel may file any written sentencing memoranda or statements and motions for departure from the Sentencing Guidelines, including the factual basis for the same, on or before **August 29, 2022**.

The Court further **ORDERS** that prior to sentencing, Connally's counsel shall review with him the revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions adopted by this Court on November 29, 2016, pursuant to the standing order entered by Chief Judge Groh, In Re: Revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions, 3:16-MC-56.

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The Court will conduct the **Sentencing Hearing** for Connally on **September 15, 2022**, at **3:00 p.m.**, at the **Elkins, West Virginia**, point of holding court. If counsel anticipates having multiple witnesses or an otherwise lengthy sentencing hearing, please notify the Judge's chamber staff so that an adequate amount of time can be scheduled.

It is so **ORDERED**.

The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Order to counsel of record and all appropriate agencies.

DATED: May 20, 2022



THOMAS S. KLEE, CHIEF JUDGE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA